THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no racket in the matter of reservation in trains but a few instances of malpractices in allotment of reservation by train conductors have come to notice.

(b) During the last six months, 160 preventive checks were conducted for detecting various kinds of irregularities.

(c) Does not arise.

Laying of railway track between Manipur-Guwahati

2203. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any railway track connecting Manipur and Guwahati;

(b) if not, whether Government have any proposal to lay a railway track connecting Manipur; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The work of construction of a railway from Diphu to Karong as the first phase of the rail link to Imphal has been included in the budget 1997-98. The work would be taken up once the necessary clearances have been obtained.

Restarting of Chhota Udcpur-Pralapnagar Rail Line

2204. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Manister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar rail line (narrow gauge) will restart which is closed for the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): The work of restoration of Bodeli-Chhota Udepur Section is proposed to be taken up during the financial year 1997-98.

Rail coaches from BEML

*2205. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board had withdrawn its orders for rail coaches from Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), which has an installed capacity to roll out 700 rail coaches annually;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rail coaches orders given to BEML during the last five years, year-wise alongwith the details of orders actually executed during this period; and

(d) the details of coaches being manufactured annually from different coach factories, factory-wise, during the last three years, year wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of railcoaches for which orders were given to BEML and those actually manufactured by them during the last five years are given below:

Year	Order	Actually manufactured
91-92	350*	375
92-93	375@	400
93-94	375 @	375
94-95	9#	9
95-96	368	139

*Order quantity after adjustment of 50 coaches produced in excess in 90-91.

@ Order quantities after adjustment of 25 coaches produced in excess in the previous years.

Order quantity is small as 150 coaches programmed for 94-95 was preponed to 93-94.

(d) The details of coaches manufactured by different coach factories during the last three years are given below:

	1CF	RCF	Jessops	BEML
93-94	1038	1025	61	375
94-95	780	775	15	9
95-96	890	690	33	139

Stoppage of New Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani Express at Anantapur

*2206. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have limited stoppage of New Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani Express; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for stoppage of the said train at Anantapur instead of Dharmavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Rajdhani Express already has limited number of stoppages, (b) No, Sir.

Issue of Complimentary Card Passes to Freedom Fighters

*2207. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free Travel Cards are issued to freedom fighters and other persons for free travel in Railways;

(b) if so, the guidelines therefor;

(c) the details of Free Travel Cards issued since January 1995; and

(d) whether any estimation has been made about the extent of loss caused to Railways on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, cost of travel on complimentary card passes issued to Freedom Fighters is borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) and (c) Number of complimentary card passes issued under various categories ask on 7.3.97 are as under:

(i) Freedom Fighters (cost borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs)	47,849
(ii) Individual and organisations at the discretion of MR as on 7.3.97	430
(iii) Ex. MR/MOS(R)/DMR	12
(iv) Ex. Members of Parliament	1670
(v) Arjuna Awardees/Olympic Medalists/ Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists	337
(vi) Gallantry Awardees (Defence) i.e. winners of Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra	467
(vii) Gallantry Awardees (Police) i.e. winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry	243
(viii) Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federations of India	46

Complimentary Card Pass is issued, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, to Freedom Fighters of widow of a Freedom Fighter drawing pension under the Swantantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme from the Central Revenues.